

# The Polk County Observer

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## RULES ARE OUTLINED

### UNIFORM BASIS FOR OREGON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS.

#### Superintendents' Division of Teachers' Body Proposes Dividing State Into Units.

High school athletics in Oregon hereafter will be conducted under an organized system similar to the conference rules of the colleges. This means that in the future every school will be competing on an equal basis so far as scholarship and attendance requirements of its athletes are concerned. This condition has been brought about by the superintendents' division of the Oregon State Teachers' association. Several months ago a committee was named to devise a system of uniform rules to govern high school athletics and this committee has framed complete rules and regulations. These were made public on Saturday by the committee, of which W. L. Ford of Dallas is a member.

For the purpose of carrying out the new rules and regulations, the Oregon High School Athletic association will be formed, any high school in the state becoming a member when its principal signs and accepts these rules and the school pays its dues of \$1 a year. This association will be administered by a board of control consisting of three members. The state superintendent of public instruction, or one of his assistants to be selected by him, shall be one member and the other two members shall be chosen by the teachers, one from western Oregon, to be elected by the western division of the State Teachers' association, and the other from eastern Oregon, to be elected by the eastern division of the association. The state has been divided into seven districts, with a director or secretary for each district. The division which has proven satisfactory in the Oregon High School Debating league was followed.

Portland was placed in a district by itself and the other districts are Columbia River, Eastern Oregon, North Willamette, South Willamette, Southern Oregon and Coos Bay. The adoption of these new rules and regulations was deemed necessary to end contention among the schools. With no rules it has been asserted that some schools were using the same athletics year after year.

Another reason for the adoption of a uniform system was that some schools enforced rules regarding certain scholarship averages for their regulations. Competition, therefore, was not on an equal basis. For these reasons the superintendents and principals of the state have urged the adoption of the uniform system in the hope of cleaner, fairer competition.

Incidentally the new regulations will put an end to "newspaper championships" in high school football and other sports. Now if it is so desired the actual champion of the state may be determined by elimination games.

The new regulations provide that a student to be eligible for athletic teams must be less than 21 years old and must have enrolled not later than October 15 for the first semester or February 15 for the second semester. He must be an undergraduate of the school and playing not more than his fourth season in that sport. He must have enrolled for a full course of four subjects and must not be delinquent in more than one subject in the semester in which he last attended school, provided that any greater delinquency may be made up under the usual custom of the school. They must also have maintained a passing standing in each of three full and regular studies for the current semester.

Provisions are made for principals or superintendents certifying to the eligibility of contestants and for the settling of all questions of eligibility through the district and central organizations. The new regulations also provide for contracts for all contests, which are to be signed by the principals of the two schools as well as the managers of the teams.

## WHAT'S BECOME OF THE COIN?

### Falls City Auditor Instructed to Search for Missing Money.

The Falls City council wants to know where the money derived from the sale of street improvement bonds may be found. At a recent session of that body the auditor was instructed to search diligently and to ascertain if possible what had become of the money due the city from such sale, and it is probable that the matter will be figured out in due course of time. "It appears," says the News in commenting on the situation, "that

the late auditor issued some warrants on the general fund for street improvement and all of the money in the general fund was gobbled up for street improvement that should have been held to pay warrants legally drawn on the general fund. Just what induced the auditor to do this is not written. We are informed that the law is specific in regards to misapplication of funds."

## DOCUMENT OF PIONEER DAYS.

### Lightning Rat Trap Illustrates the Manner of Catching Rodents.

In the year 1867, when Dave Holmes was county recorder, a patent right was made a matter of record in Polk county, and still stands as a curiosity of pioneer days. In that early period it was necessary to record the sale of rights of this character, and the document referred to gave a certain territory to the purchasers for the manufacture and distribution of what was known as the "Lightning" rat trap. Not only is the trap itself fully and minutely described, together with drawing of the contrivance, but the document has pictured upon it more than a dozen rats, all evidently seeking to become victims of the deadly machine, which is guaranteed to do the business with neatness and dispatch. When Ed. Smith and Chet. Coad, who are indexing the deeds of territorial days down to 1907, ran across this instrument each gazed in wonderment at the other, and then in concert remarked: "Are we seeing things?"

## POLK'S LOSS IS LIGHT

### AMOUNT OF TIMBER DESTROYED NOTHING.

#### Eighty-five Fires Reported by Patrolmen, Burning Over Approximately 150 Acres.

In his annual report for 1914 the state forester has the following concerning the work of the Polk County Fire Patrol association, which was organized in May, 1913, and which takes in all of the timbered districts of the county except township 6 south, ranges 7 and 8 west; township 7 south, range 8 west, and the north half of township 7 south, range 7 west, which territory was patrolled under the direction of James D. Loney & Company.

"A fire patrol assessment at the rate of two cents an acre was levied and collected from the owners of the 86,739 acres listed with the association. This sum, together with an unexpended balance of \$119.56 and a payment of \$200 from the federal fund for the patrol of the O. & C. grant lands, was sufficient to defray the expenses of the patrol and fire fighting work and leave a balance of approximately \$200.00. The state board of forestry assisted the association to the extent of \$882.71. This money was used in paying the salary and expenses of the association manager, who also acted as supervising warden for the state, and in paying, from the Weeks Law fund, salaries of two patrolmen who were turned over to the association. The salaries of nine patrolmen, amounting to \$1,391.00, were paid by the association.

"Five miles of telephone line was constructed and two telephones installed. The cost of this work averaged \$26.57 per mile. Some 15 miles of old trail was opened up and ten miles of new trail constructed at a cost of \$250.00. A total of 85 fires were reported by the patrolmen. These burned over 150 acres without resulting in destruction to standing timber, although logs and logging equipment to the amount of \$625 were destroyed."

## PRUNING DEMONSTRATION.

### Expert From Agricultural College Will Be Here on Friday.

Secretary Ewing of the Polk County Fruit Growers' association informs The Observer that on next Friday afternoon the orchardists of the county will be given an opportunity to witness a pruning demonstration by one of the experts from the Oregon Agricultural college. The demonstration will be given on the Brank Harris place, north of Dallas, by Prof. W. S. Brown, and will include all kinds of fruit trees. Mr. Ewing urges that all who can find it convenient be present at this gathering.

## Suffers Paralytic Stroke.

Mr. Frank Ward of the Oakdale neighborhood suffered a partial stroke of paralysis on Friday last, the entire left side being rendered useless. A report from the patient this morning says that he is recovering slowly.

## PLAN BIG CIVIC MEET

### PROMINENT LADY WORKERS IN PORTLAND TO SPEAK.

#### Inauguration of a Campaign Designed to Renovate and Beautify the Home Town.

Mrs. Bertha Taylor Voorhorst and Miss Alice V. Joyce of Portland will deliver addresses at the high school auditorium next Friday evening on industrial and civic topics, illustrating with lantern slides the work that is being accomplished along these lines in this country and abroad. The lectures will be under the joint auspices of committees from the Dallas Woman's club and the Commercial club, of which Mrs. D. P. Patterson and Mr. A. L. Martin and the respective chairmen.

Mrs. Voorhorst's connection with the Greater Portland Plans association, the City Beautiful committee of the Rose Festival, and the Clean-Up campaign has placed her in the limelight as a worker along civic lines, and Dallas is indeed fortunate in being able to secure her to lecture here. Miss Joyce, who is a teacher in the public schools of Portland, is an expert in school garden work, and has traveled abroad extensively studying these topics. She should, therefore, be enabled to give some valuable information on city beautifying, one of the foremost objects of the meeting.

It is the purpose of the two local organizations named to inaugurate a vigorous campaign for renovating and beautifying Dallas, and the meeting Friday evening has in view the creation of interest in this commendable undertaking among its citizens. There will be no admission fee charged, and the joint committee extends a most cordial invitation to all to attend, assuring each and every one that it will be well worth while. The talks and illustrations will be instructive and entertaining.

## Detective Working on Case.

Following the derailment of a passenger train on the Southern Pacific at Perrydale last week, a detective for the company has been busy in these parts with a view to apprehending the person who is supposed to have pulled the bolt that permitted the switch to open, but thus far he has been unsuccessful in his efforts.

## TAX PENALTY REMOVED

### SENATE AMENDS BILL TO MEET WITH APPROVAL OF HOUSE.

#### Semi-Annual Payment Feature Retained but Only Interest to Be Added on First Installment.

The new tax bill as passed by the senate provides for no penalty on delinquent first half taxes. A bill providing for a penalty of 2 per cent was passed by the senate Thursday, but the house refused to concur in it, and the conference committee agreed to eliminate the penalty. Interest at the rate of 1 per cent a month is all the delinquent will be required to pay until after November 5, when a 5 per cent penalty will be added on all unpaid taxes.

It was thought by a majority of the senators that a small penalty on first half taxes would be necessary to induce early payments, but the house believed the interest of 1 per cent a month would do this. Senator Perkins, chairman of the senate committee on assessment and taxes, said that in Multnomah county to pay current expenses 65 per cent of the total should be received on the first payments.

What is considered the important feature of the new bill is the one providing two tax-paying periods—April 5 and October 5. Under the existing law all taxes are due April 1, and if half are paid at that time interest and penalty immediately attach to the balance.

The bill providing that the sheriffs shall be the tax collectors passed both houses and has become a law. The treasurers, however, will collect taxes until the law becomes operative, ninety days from date of its adoption.

## Bond Issue Favored.

West Salem on Saturday decided by a vote of thirty-eight to nine to issue bonds not to exceed \$6500 to purchase the water plant of Kingwood and extend it to West Salem.

## Convenes and Adjourns.

The council met last night in adjourned session, but because of it being a legal holiday no business was taken until tonight.

## LOCATES NEW ROUTE

### COAST ROAD SHORTER AND HAS MUCH LESS GRADE.

#### County Surveyor Canfield Contends That \$15,000 Would Be Saved in Cost of Construction.

County Surveyor C. R. Canfield returned yesterday from the Grand Ronde section, where he spent several days doing some work for private parties. While absent Mr. Canfield located a new road over the summit in Polk county as a part of the proposed trunk line from Portland to Tillamook, it being only a short distance from the route recently surveyed, yet having a maximum grade not exceeding 3 per cent at any point between Bentley and the summit. The grade west of the summit is very similar. The newly-discovered route, according to Mr. Canfield, is fully a mile shorter in Polk county than the one previously selected, which would save about \$15,000 in construction. The road is also less winding.

Mr. Ross Shrieves, surveyor for Tillamook county, approves of the line, and will perform his work accordingly, meeting the new conditions. Mr. Canfield says there is considerable opposition to the construction of the proposed highway by Yamhillers residing in that locality, and that they have induced the county court to visit the Sour Grass section tomorrow with a view to getting the road through there.

## Osteopathy Measure Passes.

Dr. McNicol expresses satisfaction over the news that the bill the osteopaths had advocated has been passed by the state legislature. The measure calls for a three-year course of nine months each year before an applicant is eligible for examination in Oregon, and after February, 1918, every applicant for an osteopathy certificate must have had a high school education and four-year course of eight months every year in an institution which does not teach materia medica, pharmacology or prescription writing.

Frank Snyder, who has been in Portland during the winter, has accepted a musical engagement in Seattle, and went thither last week.

## ELECTION AUTHORIZED

### STATE LEGISLATURE PROVIDES FOR REFERENDUM VOTE.

#### Measure Authorizing Vote Next November Passed as Foresight for Dry Act and Others.

A special election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November for the purpose of considering measures enacted by the legislature sessions was authorized by a bill that went through both houses early Sunday morning just prior to adjournment. The bill does not provide for an election unless the referendum is invoked against any of the measures passed by this session. The sum of \$12,000 is appropriated by the state for that purpose. It is estimated that the cost of a special election will approximate \$100,000, but the balance of the fund must be met by the various counties.

Friends of the prohibition measure were particularly interested to have the bill passed, as they fear a referendum will be applied. The law becomes effective January 1, 1916, concurrently with the prohibition amendment to the constitution adopted by the people last fall. Had the special election not been authorized and the bill referred, it could not have been voted upon by the people until the election in November, 1916, and the prohibition amendment would have been in effect without a law to make it operative.

Any other legislation passed by this session also can be referred in the regular manner and voted upon next November under provisions of this bill.

## INDEPENDENCE BOOZE KILLS.

### Marion County Man Found Dead in Auto After Imbibing.

An auto trip to Independence by four employees of the State Hospital for the Insane, ended Saturday night in the death of one of the party, Walter Hackety, aged about 35 years, and unmarried. While in Independence the party sampled the drinkables other than water, and on the way home Hackety was seen to be somewhat sleepy and his companions supposed

he was affected by the liquor consumed, though the quantity was not large. Arriving home Hackety not answering a request to get out, his companions started to lift him out of the auto, and then discovered that he was dead. The coroner examined into the matter and arrived at the conclusion that a weak heart, unable to stand the stimulant, resulted in death.

## PATIENT Baffles Physician.

### Becomes Unconscious at Frequent Intervals Without Apparent Cause.

Dr. Starbuck has one of the most peculiar cases that has ever come under his observation, at the Dallas hospital, in the person of Joe Zezie, who came to the institution several weeks ago suffering from dead bone in one of his legs. From all appearances the leg is practically well, the decayed bone having been successfully removed, and the patient for some time past has frequently been down town and about the hospital grounds, yet he has "spells" when he suddenly and without apparent cause lapses into unconsciousness without perceptible pulse beats, regaining consciousness in from one to twenty-four hours afterward seemingly strong and well. When the pulse is at its lowest ebb the heart beats are strong, which makes the case all the more baffling to his physician. This condition cannot, in the opinion of Dr. Starbuck, continue long, the "spells" having gained in frequency during the past fortnight.

## BIG DOMAIN OBJECTIVE

### STATE IS AUTHORIZED TO SUE FOR 2,000,000 ACRES.

#### Legislature Authorizes Oregon to Take Steps to Obtain Railroad Land Grant if Government Wins.

Intervention by the state of Oregon in the Oregon & California land grant case is authorized by Senator Cusick's joint memorial adopted by both houses of the legislature Saturday night. The proposed intervention is "for the purpose of securing and protecting the best interests of the state of Oregon and its citizens, and to take any and all steps and proceedings which may be necessary or permissible to safeguard such interests."

The measure calls attention to the fact that more than 2,000,000 acres of land involved in the suit will be withdrawn from taxation in the various counties of the western part of the state if the federal government wins the suit and title to the property reverts to the government. Under provisions of the original grant of July 25, 1866, the Oregon & California railroad was required to sell this land to actual settlers at a price not to exceed \$250 an acre. For the alleged non-compliance with this provision the government has brought suit against the railroad and is making an effort to have the property forfeited. This case now is pending in the United States Supreme court.

Should the property revert to the government the several affected counties will be unable to collect taxes. The legislative resolution authorizes the attorney-general to intervene in the case in the hope that the government, in the event that it wins title, can be induced to place the land on the market, so that it can be opened for settlement.

The withdrawal of this land from taxation will have quite serious effect upon Polk county, there being 37,018 acres within its borders. The total state tax levied upon this property is \$74,670.12, and the amount assessed and not paid is \$13,557.59. In addition to the above is the county and school tax.

## O. K.'s Scott's Statement.

Dean Collins, editor of the Crawfish, has this in the last issue: "J. M. Scott, the genial general passenger agent of the S. P., says that a good many people are going down to see the show over his road. Mr. Scott was a visitor in Dallas the other day and informs us that it is a mighty good town, which ye scribe indorses heartily, for it was in that city that he started his career of crime."

## Boys the Lynch Garage.

Mr. C. J. Shreeve, who recently came to Dallas as a representative of the Studebaker corporation, has this week purchased the Lynch garage, and with it the agency for the Ford automobile. This gives Mr. Shreeve two of the leading machines on the market. He expects to receive a carload of Studebakers early next week.

## MOTHER SEEKS CHILD

### MRS. BOWERS STILL FIGHTS FOR HER OFFSPRING.

#### Habeas Corpus Proceeding Is Now Being Heard Before Judge Harry H. Belt.

The greater part of Saturday was occupied in the circuit court for Polk county taking testimony before Judge Harry H. Belt in the habeas corpus proceeding instituted at the instance of Mrs. Mollie Bowers to secure the custody of her daughter, Marion Bowers, four years old, and now in possession of Mr. and Mrs. Milt B. Grant. The testimony was not completed, and the case was continued until this morning at 9 o'clock, yesterday being a legal holiday. Several witnesses will be heard. It is likely that the evidence will be in today.

In her petition for a writ, Mrs. Bowers alleged that the juvenile court of Multnomah county had taken jurisdiction over her child in June, 1913, and that an order was made by Judge Gatens declaring the child a dependent child and making her the ward of the court temporarily. It is recited that she was turned over to the mother, who, lacking a good home for the child, turned her over to Mr. and Mrs. B. Grant, under an agreement that Grants were to care for the child, the mother to pay for the care at the rate of \$10 a month. The mother alleges that the Grants refused to give her possession of the child upon her demand. She also alleges in her petition that Judge Gatens made a further order in the matter of Marion Bowers, a dependent child, in which the court directed that Mrs. Bowers have the custody of her child temporarily and that Mrs. Bowers be required to present the child in court at least twice each month.

In his answer to the petition Mr. Grant alleges that the mother is an unfit person to have the custody of the child and sets forth that an order was issued by the county court of Polk county in September, 1914, wherein Marion Bowers was committed to the care of the Grants, in proceedings instituted to declare her a dependent child. Mrs. Bowers, in an answer to Grant, denied her unfitness to have the custody of the child and alleged that the Multnomah county juvenile court has jurisdiction in the case and that the order of the Polk county court was void.

On Saturday Mr. Grant testified that when he got possession of the child she was dirty and almost starved. He said she showed neglect. Mrs. Grant's testimony was similar. Both contended that because of Mrs. Bowers' reputation she was not a fit person to rear the child.

Mrs. Hattie Riggs, who was called to the stand to testify, said that when the mother had the baby in Dallas, just prior to turning it over to the Grants, the child appeared to be well cared for and that the mother seemed anxious to secure a good home for it. William Stump, grandfather of Mollie Bowers, said the child was well taken care of by its mother and that he had never heard anything against her reputation that would unfit her to have her child. Sam Shooley testified to certain actions he said took place in the fall of 1913, in which Mrs. Bowers and a railroad man were the principals. Judge John Teal of the county court, was called to tell what a witness, now out of the state, testified to upon the former trial.

Court was adjourned until Monday, when evidence as to the proceedings in Multnomah county in 1913 will be given, and the petitioner will aver that as long as the juvenile court of Multnomah county has jurisdiction, no other court could gain jurisdiction of the matter.

## Makes a Good Showing.

In its monthly report of the sanitary conditions of hotels, meat markets, restaurants and dairies in the Willamette valley, the Dairy and Food commission gives the Dallas Meat company a rating of 83.3, or higher than that given any similar institution in the territory mentioned last year. The rating, when everything is taken into account, is an exceptionally good one, and is equalled by only two other markets in the valley, they being New Institutions at Newberg and Sheridan.

## Accountancy Law Repealed.

The state accountancy department, operated for the past two years under the supervision of the state insurance commissioner, was assigned to the legislative graveyard on Friday, when the house passed S. B. 13, by the Marion county delegation, repealing the law that created it.